plans in agriculture and related issues. The NDC Sub-Committee is expected to submit its report within the next six months for inclusion in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

4. On the Employment Guarantee Act, the suggestions that payment of wages should be mostly in cash since there were problems in movement of foodgrains to backward areas and that being the self-targeting programme, the Employment Guarantee should cover non-BPL families were noted by the NDC, and it was directed to consider them for inclusion in the final draft of the National Employment Guarantee Bill.

5. To look into the need for providing adequate flexibility in the design of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the National Rural Health Mission and Bharat Nirman etc., to take account of State level realities and priorities, as well as the feasibility of their transfer to States/UTs or amalgamation into four or five broad heads with the freedom to develop locally relevant programmes, the NDC directed the Planning Commission to consider setting up an Expert Group to develop concrete proposals for restructuring the CSS, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

6. Recognizing that improvement in physical infrastructure has also emerged as a common priority and increased private participation has now become a necessity to mobilize the resources needed to achieve its expansion and upgradation, the NDC observed that successful promotion of private participation in infrastructure requires a well-designed framework of policies in which investors have the assurance that standards of services will be maintained and concessions will be transparently awarded and directed the Central Government to work towards evolving such a framework, which could be adopted by the States.

7. The Planning Commission was directed to begin work on the Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan with a view to submit it for National Development Council's approval by the end of December, 2005.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Development Report, 2003

1198. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Human Development Report, 2003, India is the home to the largest number of hungry people; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to turn India into a hunger free country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to the Human Development Report 2003, India is home to the largest number of hungry people (around 22% of India's population). However, as per the information from National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), the percentage of households where all members did not get enough food everyday throughout the year was only 3.8% in rural areas and 1.4% in urban areas for the year 1999-2000.

(b) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to strengthen various programmes to tackle the problem of poverty and food and nutritional security at the household level. This is sought to be achieved through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under which foodgrains are provided to the poor at half the economic cost, and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), under which 2.5 crore families are provided foodgrains at highly subsidized rates. In addition, there are food based schemes which also address nutritional security. These include the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP), Mid Day Meal scheme and provision of nutritional supplements to pre school children through the ICDS system.

Central assistance to Uttar Pradesh

†1199. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh had made a request to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the grant for Central assistance amounting to Rs. 18230.00 crores for the schemes of various sectors in the State through a special economic package for the development of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Central assistance in the form of a special economic package for the development of the State is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.